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THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY

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St Helens WA10 5LD

Hello again,

I'm starting off this edition of the Crosby Voice with an apology. Quite simply, I don't believe that this particular edition of the magazine is up to standard. But, there are extenuating circumstances.

For a start, for three weeks from mid-September to early October, the Machliss family went traipsing off to the USA for a probably undeserved three week holiday. And secondly, and more relevantly, yours truly has departed from the company for whom he worked for the past 10 years to become a freelance consultant in his field.

For those of you who have ever wondered what I do in real life, I actually work in the advertising industry. I'm what they call a 'copywriter'. In other words I get the ideas for and write the words for TV commercials, radio commercials, newspaper ads, etc. (All those who wish to turn to a different channel may now do so.)

Anyway, there are many opportunities for someone with my experience to freelance his services to various advertising agencies, so I thought "Why not!" and so I'll give it a go for a while and see how things turn out.

The upshot of all this is that I have had veryu very little free time in recent weeks for hobbies such as turning out this magazine! In fact, it taken quite a lot of midnight oil to get out what you hold in your hands. As a result, certain regular subjects, particularly Vern Taylor's Crosby Profiles have had to be set aside for this issue, simply because I haven't had time to type them up.

The other thing you will notice about this issue is that it is almost certainly full of typographical errers! (That one was on purpose.) Proof reading takes time, and once again, time is a commodity I don't have much of at the moment.

Nonetheless, even though this is a slimmer than usual edition of The Crosby Voice, I hope that it makes up in quality what it lacks in quantity.

Even though I don't believe in boring people with holiday stories, some of the things that happened on our trip to the USA may be of vague interest to the readers of these pages, and so, from pages 3 - 6, you can read (complete with pictures) of some of the Crosby-related adventures that we had.

We have another Crosby article from LOOK magazine, this one dating back to 1958 when Bing was newly married to Kathryn. WIth hindsight, it makes interesting reading.

A Chicago TV station prepared a 90 minute special on Bing to commemorate his passing and member Girvan Paterson wrote for more details. You can see their reply on page 13.

The good news is that the 3-LP Tenth Anniversary Collection is out in the UK. The bad news is that the poems that Bing recorded in September of 1977 won't be included. You can see the cover of the boxed set on page 14 and read why the poems have been left out in a letter from Leslie Gaylor on page 33.

Speaking of good news/bad news, Volume 9 in the Chronological Crosby set is now out in the UK. The bad news is that John MacNicholas who produces the records has severed company with the importer who brings the records to Australia and, at the time of writing, has not found a replacement. We hope that one will be found in the not too distant future and that those people who ordered volume 8 will have their orders filled. However, anyone who paid and would like their money back, is welcome to write to us and we will refund it. For safety sake, you may prefer to order direct from the UK. Try the record shop we mentioned in the last magazine, or perhaps Derek Parkes, whose address appears on page 25 of this issue.

By the way, the boxed sets of Tenth Anniversary Sets are still on their way from the UK. Thank you to all those people who submitted their names for the draw for the sets we ordered. When they arrive, the names of the lucky winners will be drawn from a hat and the winners notifiedby mail. If anyone changes theirmind, then we'll draw out a couple of extra names, justto be on the safe side.

There are quite a few CD issues of Crosby discs coming out now. Details page 19.

A few weeks back, Mark Scrimger sent us the first Bing Crosbg 'boardgame' that we have ever seen. This unusual collector's item may be seen on pages 21 and 22.

Our last meeting in October was our AGM, although anyone present would have hardly been aware of it. The meeting occurred just 24 hours after we returned from overseas so I had no Presidents report to give (which cheered everyone up enormously) and neither did we have a Treasurer's Report ready. Now the latter is by the far the most important of the two, so I'm happy to report that Keith Dorman hasprovided us with a proper report which you can see on page 23. Frightening how much money a little society like thisone turns over every year!

By the way, we did managerto have elections and everyone was returned unopposed. I will take this opportunity to thank our hard working committee, without whome this magazine would not exist!

Sheldon O'Connell, our Canadian member has just published a new book that I know willbe of interest to many of our members. Entitled "Dick Todd - King of the Jukebox", it tells the life story of the Candian Bing Crosby. Very reasonably priced too. See pages 24 and 25 for more details.

As well as all the above, there are more old advertisments featuring Bing, unusual photographs and interesting bits and pieces. Next issue, we'll make up for everything we didn't fit in here - and more! Until then, let's get underway with future functions.

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FUTURE FUNCTIONS

FILM EVENING: MONDAY DECEMBER 7TH

"WHITE CHRISTMAS"

PLUS

"BING'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY TV SPECIAL"

Apparently, White Christmas will be released on commercial video in time for this year's Christmas, but there's nothing like seeing it up on the big screen. As a companion piece, we'll be screening the March 1977 TV special commemorating Bing's 50th anniversary in show business. To my mind, the highlight of this is Bing's re-union with the Mills Brothers but there's plenty to enjoy.

Venue: The theatrette of the AMP Theatrette, Cnr Bourke and William Streets, City. Starting time, 7.30, but please try to get here much earlier. We have a long show.

Members $4, Pensioners and students $2, Non-members $5.

FILM EVENING: MONDAY FEBRUARY 22ND

"TOO MUCH HARMONY"

PLUS

"CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK"

We were meant to screen "Too Much Harmony" earlier this year but "She Loves Me Not" arrived instead. So we'll make up for the mistake by screening the film at our first meeting for 1988. As a companion piece we have a most unusual offering. "Check and Double Check" stars Amos and Andy and the Duke Elleington orchestra and was filmed in 1931. What makes it of interest to us is that the voices of the Rhythm Boys are heard singing "Three Little Words" in one scene! Don't miss it.

THE ROAD TO THE USA

I've always found it pretty boring looking at other people's holiday snaps and listening to the stories of their trip (jealousy mainly) but its quite a different matter when it comes to my trip! Well, I think so anyway. What follows are the highlights of our trip that may appeal to the readers of this magazine.

I must start out by apologizing to all those members in the USA who I'd told we were coming but never even got around to ringing up. When you're travelling with a wife and two kids 12 and 15, they (oddly enough) have other priorities than visiting Crosby collectors and rummaging through record shops! Well, no accounting for taste. And honestly, I really didn't have time to make contact with everyone. When you cover New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii in the space of three weeks, every minute of the day manages to get filled up!

NEW YORK

I can honestly say I loved New York! I could very happily have spent the full three weeks there. I had contacted a number of friends there and really hoped to get together, but the only person I was able to see was Stan Leland (below)

who showed me round all the record shops, in particular Footlight Records, 113 East 12th Street, New York 10003 (Ph 212 533 1572). Footlight Records has the best collection of new and second-hand nostalgia records I've ever seen, mostly LP's although they did have a handful of 78's. They carry albums from all over the world, and if you can't get it there, chances are you won't find it. They have an excellent Crosby selection including many 10" LP's that I'd never even seen before. Unfortunately, their prices for some of these older discs were a little high - $20 - $30 - $40, but very rare and in good condition. Stan was also good enough to take my son Paul around to some very odd looking record hand shops so that he could pick up some really rare Pink Floyd albums that he had been looking for ('like father like son' doesn't always apply when it comes to musical taste!) so as far as Paul was concerned, that was the highlight of the trip!

Stan also had another surpise for me. It turns out that his apartment block (in a beautiful part of the city overlooking Central Park) is also the home of famed singer Alan Jones (see above), and Stan arranged for us to visit with Alan for an hour. Alan is a very active 79 year old who is still performing (he showed us a video of his appearance on stage in New York earlier in the year) and who will be visiting Brisbane in the new year for concert appearances. His voice is still in excellent condition, due, he told me, to the fact that he had Caruso's voice teacher as his teacher when he started out. I hope that I'll be half as fit as Alan Jones when I'm his age, but I don't know whether I'll be riding a bicycle around the streets of New York as he still does!

Whilst in New York, we also paid a visit to the Musuem of Broadcasting which we featured in these pages a couple of years back. They have an enormous collection of old radio and TV shows, and it is possible to here or see the programme of your choice for a nominal fee. Naturally I looked under the 'Crosby' file card and was amazed to see under the broadcasting section an entry dated 1928! Naturally, I couldn't leave without checking to see what this rare item could possibly be, so I paid a couple of dollars, stood around impatiently for half an hour while they found the tape and showed me to a listening booth. And what was on the tape? Don't get too excited. It was an extract from an early 50's radio series tracing the past and the song"From Monday On" which was introduced as being from a radio broadcast was actually just the commercial release featuring Bing and the Rhythm Boys with the Whiteman Band. Ah well. You never know what might have been. None-the-less, if you get to New York, the Museum is definitely worth a visit, particularly if you want to see early TV.

WASHINGTON

Our next stop was Washington and my wife and spent a pleasant evening with our ex-rep Richard Pearson and his friend Barbara, in nearby Arlington.

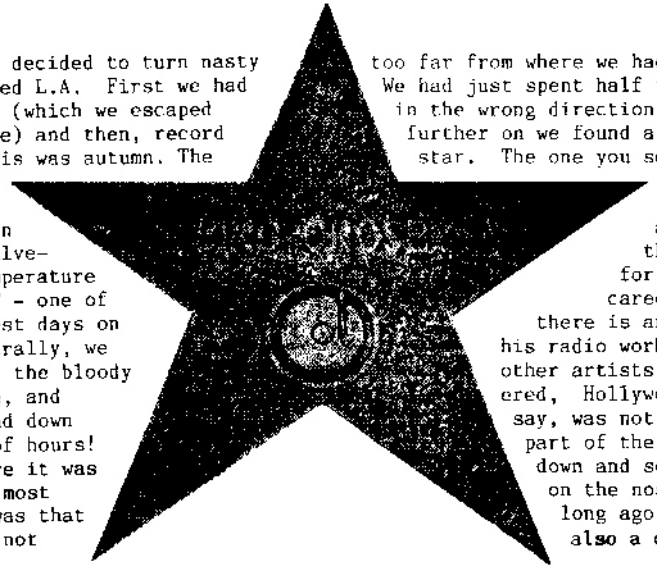
Richard has a wonderful basement full of records and memorabilia and we had a most pleasant time. Members may remember that Richard visited Melbourne several years back. Our friend is also a keen Petula Clark fan, so if you have any rare or unusual records by Petula, Richard is the manto contact.

SAN FRANCISCO

Not much time to spare in San Francisco but we did have time to ring legendary collector Jack Souther, and also Vern Taylor. We also spoke with Hobie and Kathie Wilson of "The Bing's Friends and Collectors Society" and were invited to their Club banquet on October 3rd, but unfortunately, as we were committed to move on, we couldn't attend. Next time.

LOS ANGELES

Mother nature decided to turn nasty when we visited L.A. First we had an earthquake (which we escaped without damage) and then, record heat! And this was autumn. The day we searched for Bing's star on Hollywood Boulvevard, the temperature reached 110°F - one of the ten hottest days on record! Naturally, we couldn't find the bloody star anywhere, and tramped up and down for a coule of hours! Finally, there it was but what was most frustraring was that the star was not too far from where we had started out! We had just spent half the morning going in the wrong direction. Then, a little further on we found a second Crosby star. The one you see to the left was to honour Bing's recording activities whilst the second one was for Bing's film career. Presumably there is another star for his radio work. A number of other artists were so remembered, Hollywood, I have to say, was not my favourite part of the USA. Very run-down and seedy and trading on the nostalgia of long long ago. There were also a couple of other

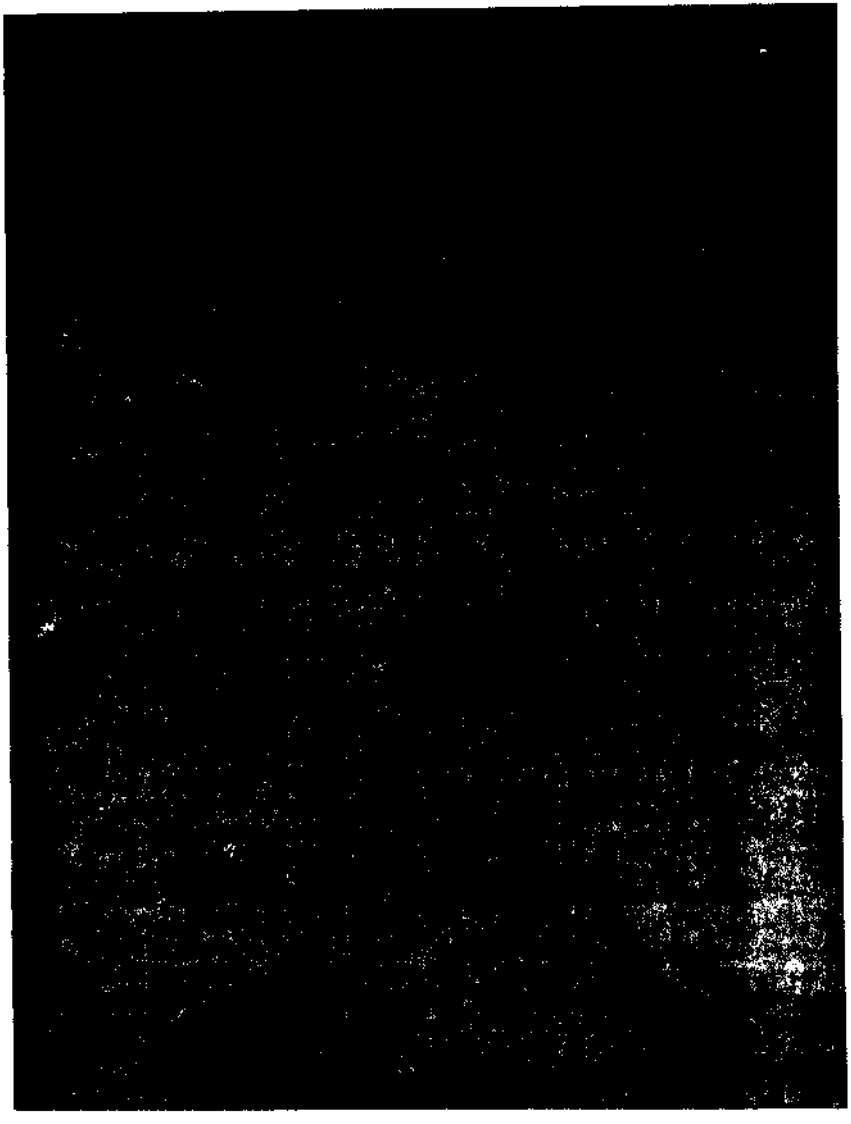


references to Bing, both at the famous Mann's Chinese Theatre (formery 'Graumans') the first being on of a series of framed plaques featuring the academy award winning movies and artits, and the second, being, of course, Bing's hand prints and signature in the cement in the forecourt of the theatre. (See below)

In the Hollywood Wax Museum, you could also see Bing and Bob Hope in a scene from 'Road to Bali' but very poor likenesses. If space permits, I'll feature a shot of this display, but if there isn't room, don't worry. You haven't missed anything!

HAWAII

Not much of Crosby interest in the Islands, except for the memory of dozens of Bing's Hawaiin recordings. And that's it. Not too boring I hope. WAKE UP THERE!



L
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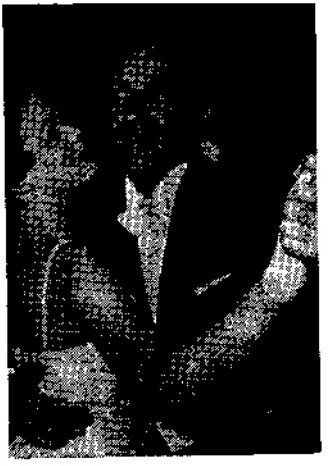
BING
TALKS...
about his wife
his life
his future

Bing talks



about his new wife

about retiring

about how he most enjoys life

Bing Crosby has always seemed to be as changeless as any other American legend. Today, just turned 54, he is setting out on a brand-new life. His approach is as unorthodox as his lazybones way of singing and acting. He is going to "slip into the background," work on "a few little business things," hang around the house, go golfing and fishing and maybe even write his autobiography.

The changed Bing is the result of his marriage to actress Kathryn Grant, who at 24 is slightly younger than her husband's oldest son, Gary. Bing and Kathryn are awaiting a baby this summer. The new domesticity, centering around the energetic and articulate Mrs. Crosby, has served as the catalyst for a lonely and restless man. He had been a widower since 1952, and his four sons had all gone away from home.

Until his marriage last October, Crosby had rattled around the world and his four houses, idly watching his businesses and movies make fortunes he hardly needed. Now, he is a man with fresh plans inspired by his life with his new wife.

He balks at any suggestion that theirs is a "Hollywood" marriage. "We're not Tony and Janet, or Debbie and Eddie," he quipped when a photographer asked him to pose with Kathryn. What he does think about his marriage, he revealed recently in a phone chat with Herb Kamm, New York newspaperman. Bing also talked about his career plans and how he plans to spend his time from now on. Here is how the Q. and A. went.

Bing, how is your marriage going? It's been a wonderful thing for me. I stay home a lot more. You know, when there isn't a woman around, you're always on the go—eat out most of the time. And that can get

pretty dreary. Since I've gotten married, I really find it agrees with me. Kathryn likes to cook, and we have a wonderful time. We read a good deal, watch TV, just visit. Have people for dinner or tea.

How about you? Changed at all? I notice that I'm not as restless as before. I don't go out with the boys. I find it's much more fun to stay home. My sons are all gone from home now, except during the holidays, but they've always got someone to come home to. We had the boys and all their friends up over the holidays. They were sleeping on the floor and all over the place.

Kathryn will continue her career. She's under contract to Columbia. She'll do more movies and stay active. She also likes to write and read. You know, she has established a dramatic scholarship at the University of Texas, where she went to school. She's a great kid.

You mentioned cooking. Is she a good cook? Kathryn loves to cook. She has just about every cookbook that's on the market. She likes soufflés and is pretty good with salads. As for housekeeping, she has a bad stroke with a vacuum cleaner.

On the Perry Como Look *Awards show, Bing, you said something about giving up your singing career, that your retirement from show business might be imminent. What did you mean?* I mean that it's likely to come any day, any time. By this, I mean: The only time I work, it's because I feel I have a chance to do something worth while, something that will be popular and appealing. I haven't any pictures in mind. Sure, I've had offers, but nothing suitable. Actually, at my age, I'm kind of tough to cast. It would take a brave producer to attempt to build any love interest around me.

So you're not really retiring, then? I'm just standing by, waiting for something attractive. I just don't want to waste my time on something for which I've no enthusiasm. After all, the public is getting very selective, both on movies and TV. They're becoming very critical. They tear shows apart unless they're good. The best thing is to stay away from something you have no faith in. Otherwise, you're in trouble.

"We're not Tony and Janet."

I've managed to give, if I may be immodest, some good entertainment to the public. Unless I can maintain that standard, there is nothing for me to do but hang up the old throat spray and spend my time with Kathryn, my kids, golf, fishing--all attractive prospects for me. And that's about the way it is. I'm actually retiring because there's nothing I'm really keen to do.

Now let's get it straight, Bing. You're calling it a career, or aren't you? I guess you can say I'm retiring. Not that I wouldn't get back into action if something great came up and I could grab it, but right now, it doesn't look as if there is anything.

In stepping out of the entertainment picture, I must say I have fingers in other pies. Loads of things to do. I have a lot of business projects, such as TV deals, that will occupy my attention. Don't get me wrong, though. I'm not making a formal announcement, like Dame Nellie Melba, who retired 300 times during her career. Every year, she'd come out and say that she was finished; everything was ended. Then she'd change her mind and take up her career again. And the great Eddie Leonard—I forget how many farewell tours he made. I'd rather not make any formal announcement—just slip into the background. After all, something might come up, something with great material in it.

Bing, if you had to do it all over again, what would you change? I wouldn't change a thing. I would do it just exactly the same way—by singing. I had a wonderful time. I would want everything to be the same.

After having been an active entertainer so long, what now? Well, I won't be a recluse, crouching among my scrapbooks. I've got a few little business things going. And don't forget: I enjoy good living. I like to fish and hunt. And now I'm doing a lot of reading. I've been doing a little writing too. Enjoy putting words on paper.

How about an autobiography? I've given it some thought, but until I really find a good approach to it, I think that it will have to remain in the "unfinished business" file. But it's something I have thought about and would like to do. If I did, I would want to feel that it is something other than statistics, facts and so forth. All that's been well covered.

Bing, you and Kathryn both like to write. How about collaborating? We often joke about it. That's something I'd give my eyeteeth to do. Who knows? Maybe Kathryn and I, someday, will get a bright idea.

IF THE CROSBYS ever do collaborate on a book or play, the chances are excellent that the bright idea will be Kathryn's. She's full of ideas; what's more, she puts them to work with enormous energy.

In Robstown, Texas, high school, a relative recalls, Bing's new wife was the second-brightest student and the No. 1 worker. She edited the high-school annual, was district champion in tennis, won all the beauty contests, danced in school theatricals. "She always had confidence in herself," says Mrs. Frances Sullivan, an aunt with whom she lived those years. "She was never afraid of anything. She thought more like a boy."

Although she has 19 movies behind her, the new Mrs. Crosby has few friends among fellow actresses. "She's so bright she scares them," says a Hollywood veteran. While her husband talks about "hanging up his old throat spray" and "retiring," she is opening her mind to new knowledge. A fine-arts graduate of the University of Texas, she kept up her schooling during the 45-month, on-again, off-again Crosby courtship. For a time, her interest was in cooking and home decoration, as taught at U.C.L.A. "I felt guilty," she says today, "because all my friends were getting married and having babies. I wanted to do something domestic."

With a baby of her own due in August, she is now steaming ahead as a student nurse at Los Angeles Queen of Angels Hospital, and studying anatomy, chemistry and psychology at Los Angeles City College.

For Kathryn Crosby, there are no cinch courses. Her first student-nurse assignment was as a "scrubber" in surgery. "I watched them do a major operation for cancer, then went outside and lost my breakfast, and

On rare evening out, they go to a premiere. Bing threatens to retire, but Kathryn will continue her film career.

went back in to finish scrubbing up the room and equipment."

Why endure this when she might lounge at Crosby's 14-room Beverly Hills mansion, their "honeymoon cottage" at Palm Desert, Calif., the Nevada ranch or Bing's Hayden Lake, Idaho, fishing camp? "Working like this is much better than sitting around listening to the old wives' tales while I'm waiting for my baby," she explains. "Now, I know what really happens."

Such forthrightness has always characterized her career. Today, it also marks her role as the wife of a man who—already a movie star—was married for the first time three years before she was born.

Will she continue acting? She defers to Bing—who says he doesn't mind. Play golf with Bing? Not until she can keep up with him; she has been learning the game with typical organization, one club after another, and is now up to the No. 7 iron. Sing with Bing? "When he's singing, I'll be home making cranberry sauce," she says. "I don't want to impose myself on his career. It would be wonderful working with him, but I want to make it on my own."

Olive Kathryn Grandstaff Crosby has been making it on her own ever since she came to Hollywood in 1953. She was an unknown but dauntless teen-ager fresh out of Texas, where her mother still teaches grade school at West Columbia. In short order, she won a Paramount contract and launched a Hollywood column for newspapers in Dallas and Houston. Crosby was on her list of interview subjects, and he asked her out. She was 20 and he was Bing Crosby. To this day, she can vividly remember

that January 24, 1954, was rainy and her dress was burnt-orange taffeta.

In 1955, their romance got into the papers when Bing squired her to an Academy Awards ceremony. In 1956, she was converted to Crosby's religion, Catholicism, bought a wedding dress and flew to Hayden Lake. The wedding banns were posted, but Kathryn returned to Hollywood alone. Neither would discuss the incident afterward. When their wedding finally took place last October, everyone was surprised.

Crosby is an old hand at keeping his private life private. Thus, the public's picture of him has tended to blur since the time, long ago, when he needed publicity. But through the new Mrs. Crosby's eyes emerge some warm and revealing views of Crosby, the gentle but firm-handed boss of the family. Once, Kathryn took him to her home in West Columbia:

"Everybody pitched in to make him welcome. Mother had to teach school every day, so the neighbors fixed up our house for the reception. Bing shook hands with people for hours and sang at Mother's school."

Another time, she bought some snug-fitting pants:

"Men have such different ideas on clothes. I bought a cute, tight-fitting pair of toreador pants, but my husband didn't like them. He said

they'd be all right for sitting in my room and writing letters, but not outside. He also feels that shorts for women should come down at least to their knees. I told him this would give me brown kneecaps."

Bing is still for keeping out of the public eye. Not long ago, the Crosbys were watching a tournament at Palm Springs' Thunderbird Country Club. Bing told a persistent photographer, "I ain't going to pose nothin' for nobody." His wife later beckoned to the cameraman and said, "He's going to send me home if you keep trying to get pictures, and you want me to see the tournament, don't you?"

For Crosby, fatherhood is as familiar a problem as publicity: his oldest son was born five months before Kathryn. But all of Bing's children are sons. If Kathryn and he have a daughter, how will he take it? The systematic Mrs. Crosby began preparing him for the eventuality months ago. Her baby, she said, would be named Mary Frances.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Crosby had been busy talking to the sisters at the hospital. "They tell me they've got everything solved," she said, smiling. "Mary Frances will be no lonely girl in a man's world. The sisters are using their influence to see that I get triplets—all girls." END

Channel 11
5400 North St. Louis Avenue
Chicago Illinois 60625
312/583-5000

WTTW
CHICAGO

August 18, 1987

Mr. Girvan Paterson
18 Coolibar Avenue
Seaford,
Victoria. 3198.
Australia

Dear Mr. Paterson,

It was really very wonderful of you to have written and we are all touched by your kind wishes and dedication to Bing Crosby.

From what you wrote about Bing, one would think you were writing for our show as we are emphasizing the career and musical legacy of Mr. Crosby, not unlike what you yourself were saying. It is a clip and interview show that illustrates the musical importance and the wonderful talents of Mr. Crosby. We have gotten the rights to about 40 films, all of his early short films, around 10 television appearances, as well as war-time, radio, and private footage. We have also taped interviews with Bob Hope, Phil Harris, Mary Martin, Patty Andrews, Anthony Quinn, Jane Wyman, Mel Torme, Victor Borge, Bob Crosby, Donald O'Connor, Sammy Cahn, Jimmy Van Heusen, Ken Barnes, and several others. Dorothy Lamour is the host for the show. There is a strong possibility of getting an interview with Frank Sinatra, who has just returned to the States from a European tour. We have so much wonderful material, it is impossible to squeeze it all into a 90-minute special. That alone is a tribute to Mr. Crosby.

We do hope that someday we can have our program shown in Australia as well as in Great Britian. We have received many touching letters from gentlemen in England, also sending their support and offering their services in any way they can.

I am 23 years old and only knew of Bing from the Road Pictures, Christmas Specials, and Minute Maid commercials. Now that I am aware of his enormous career and stature, I am a great fan of Mr. Crosby's. I hope our show will spark others in this same direction.

I thank you again for your letter.

Warmest Regards,

J. Scott Ament

J. SCOTT AMENT
Production Assistant

When he heard that TV station WTTW is Chicago was producing a show to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Bing's passing, member Girvan Paterson fired off a letter requesting more details. The above is his reply

NEW RELEASES

THIS IS IT! BING CROSBY - TENTH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION - WARWICK RECORDS (UK)

And it was definitely worth all the wait. Three hours of Crosby, superbly reprocessed in digital stereo, and the sound is as good as we've been lead to believe. I won't list the tracks again; you can see them in the last issue if you want. Some, as you know, were included on the 3 LP's issued here on Philips several years ago, but the rest are new. Unfortunately, as you'll read in a letter from Les Gaylor elsewhere in this issue, Warwick decided against including the poems at this time. A great pity, but perhaps later. The cover features a striking black and white shot of Bing, surrounded by silver edging and lettering which I don't think will reproduce here. The set you see here is actually the compact disc set which Keith Parkinson airmailed to me, but I imagine that it will be identical to the LP issue. Interestingly, the CD's are actually processed here in Melbourne at our new compact disc plant at Moorabbin, or so it states in the label, so I guess that there's a good chance we'll see the CD's here. If you come along to our next Meeting on December 7th, you can hear a preview of the discs over the P.A. system.

No details available yet as to the Australian release of the Tenth Anniversary Collection, but hopefully it will be before Christmas.

THEY'RE COMING THICK AND FAST NOW! HERE'S VOL 9 AND VOL 10 IS PROMISED FOR XMAS.

After a bit of a delay, John MacNicholas will have produced three volumes of the Chronological Bing Crosby in virtually the last quarter of the year! Volume 9 covers the period from "I'm a Dreamer - Aren't We all?" (Oct 16, 1929) through to "Three Little Words" (Aug 16, 1930) which means that Bing's entire Whiteman period is now covered on LP for the very first time. No doubt extra records and other unissued takes will pop up from time to time (that always happens) but, by and large, we haw have all of Bing's earliest (and obscure) efforts preserved on vinyl, and, if John MacNicholas never issued another record, he is to be highly congratulated for what he has so far achieved.

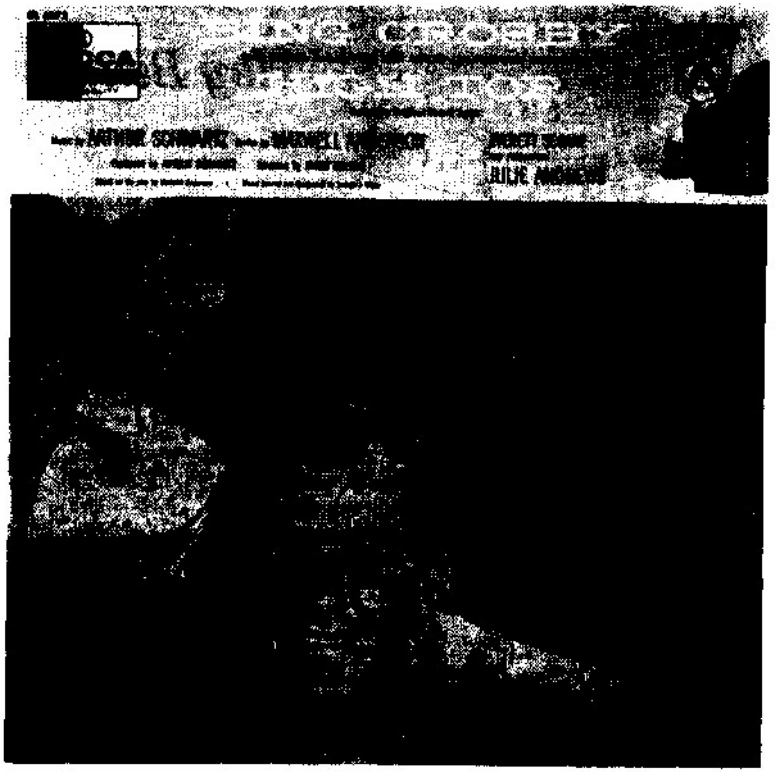
As we stated earlier in the magazine, John has not at this stage located a new distributor for the records in this country so it may be worth your while ordering the discs direct from the UK while they're still available. Derek Parks would seem to be your best bet (Derek's ad appears elsewhere in the magazine) or otherwise, the Record Centre in Birmingham, whose address wepublished in the last issue.

THROUGH THE YEARS, VOLUME 3. (Limited Edition CLub) JGB 1008

Once again, Gordon Wall has done an excellent job in reprocessing a bunch of old Decca masters, most, if all, never released on LP and a few unissued alternate takes thrown in for good measure.

The contents: L3030A - Road to Morocco, L4581A - Swinging Down the Lane, L4857A - Why Can't You behave, L4932A - How It Lies (x3), L3479A - Your Socks Don't Match, L 4337A - That's How Much I Love You Baby, L3486C (unissued) Mine, L4933A - Everywhere You Go, L4734A - Katrina, W73912A Kokomo Indiana, L3410B (unissued) Like Someone In Love, L4275A My Heart Goes Crazy, L6768 - The Moon Came Up With a Great Idea Last Night, DLA 2846A - The Lamplighter's Serenade.

Nice to have those tracks on vinyl, especially Bing's solo version of "Road to Morocco". The record isn't available through shops of course, but you can probably buy a copy from John Joyce, 21 Birchfield Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE9 7TJ, England. I'm sorry, I don't know the price. However, with the current currency fluctuations following the stock market collapse, it takes a lot more dollars to buy a pound! Write for details, enclosing an IRC.



HIGH TOR - DECCA DL 8272 (Spain)

This is hardly a 'new' release but it is an interesting reissue from Spain, of all places! In every respect, it is exactly the same as the original issue from the mid-1950's, right down to the actual 'Decca' label on the disc itself. 'High Tor' is one of those hard to find LP's so this will be a welcome re-issue for many collectors. I don't know where you'd write to in Spain to order copies; however, Footlight Records in New York does have copies, so I'm sure that they would be welcome to oblige. I did give the address earlier, but here it is again: Footlight Records, 112 East 12th Street, New York, New York 10013. Be sure to write first to get the latest price plus postage.

'High Tor' was one of Bing's earliest TV appearances, and also, one of Julie Andrews first appearances. From memory, it was before 'My Fair Lady' although not too long before. I wonder whether the original video still exists? I do know that there is a tape of the soundtrack floating around so it is highly possible that the pictures still exist as well. I guess that 'High Tor' is one piece of video that we won't see again, although you never know your luck The show was originally based on a play by Maxwell Anderson and the music was by Arthur Schwartz whose writing credits date back as far as the Fred Astaire show 'The Band Wagon'.

HEY BING - MCA (USA) MCA 915

Here's a record that requires no introduction to members. Recorded in November of 1968, it was Bing's first (and only) attempt to record an LP with a 'modern' accompaniment. From all reports, this was one of Bing's least favourite LP's although I personally quite enjoy it. The interesting thing is that MCA in America have aquired the tracks. The disc was originally recorded for a now-defunct label called 'Amos' and issued in this country on the London label. There was a re-issue some years ago on the Bell label here but for some reason, they only featured eight of the tracks! This particular re-issue is dated 1984, so presumably it is still around. I picked it up in Hawaii for US$3.00!

OTHER ISSUES

BING 'N' BIX ON CD!

That excellent British label 'Living Era' is now releasing certain of its LP's on Compact Disc. Of interest to us is a CD, catalogue number AJA 5005 R which was issued in England. It features twenty tracks from the Whiteman era which contain not only Bing on the vocal, but also Bix Beiderbecke. I haven't seen it in Australia yet, but it was also available in the USA, so presumably it will one day turn up in Australia also.

OTHER CROSBY CD'S AVAILABLE OVERSEAS

Nice to see that several other Crosby albums are also coming out on this new recording medium.

From Japan: Best 22 Songs - Bing Crosby - MCA 35XD-501/V3500

This CD contains 22 Crosby tracks from the MCA files: Begin the Beguine, Mona Lisa, Dinah, La Vie En Rose, You Belong To My Heart, Sibony, Play a Simple Melody, Dear Hearts and Gentle People, Easter Parade, Somebody Loves Me, Changing Partners, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, Beyond the Reef, Here Ends the Rainbow, Harbour Lights, September Song, I'll Be Seeing You, Swinging On a Star, It's Been a Long Long Time, Tea For Two, My Blue Heaven, Too-ra-loo-ra.

I wonder whether the 'Dinah' track is the version with the Mills Brothers or Bing's early 50's version with Buddy Cole.

From the UK: Jazz Classics in Digital Stereo - Bix Beiderbecke - BBC CD 601

This is a re-issue of the LP of the same name. However, of the 16 Bix tracks, there is only one featuring Bing: Mississippi Mud (Matrix no: BVE 41696-2 rec Feb 18, 1928.) As this track is also on the 'Bix 'n' Bing' CD, then this is really one for Beiderbecke fans only.

From the UK: Bing Crosby - Inter Tape Records 500.027 CD

I saw this CD in the USA vut didn't bother picking it up. All selctions are from radio broadcasts of the late 40's and early 50's and all have been issued many times over on a variety of LP's: Lady of Spain, Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, PS I Love You, If This Isn't Love, Ol' Buttermilk Sky, Great Day, I Got the Sun in The Morning, It's a Good Day, You go to My Head, The Old Lamplighter. And that's it! Ten tracks for which you pay maximum price!

From the UK: Just Breezin' Along - CDP 7482722 (UK CZ5)

This CD (and LP) were due out in the UK in October and features 16 tracks from Bing's United Artists LP's of themid-70's: Just Breezin' Along With The Breeze, How Are Things in Glocca Morra, Heatwave, The Best Things In Life Are Free, My Heart Stood Still, I Got Rhythm, The good Old Times, Cabaraet, Send In the Clowns, The only Way To Go, Have a Nice Day, Some Sunny Day, At My Time of Life, With a Song In My Heart, Razzle Dazzle, That's What Life Is All About.

Should be worth getting. When I get a copy, I'll feature the cover in the magazine.

From the UK: (Coming but no other details yet) - Bing Crosby & Fred Astaire

This CD (due out in November) features a selection of tracks recorded for "A Couple of Song and Dance Men" plus an album that Astaire recorded at the same time: Top Billing, How Lucky Can You Get, Spring Spring Spring, Roxie, Easy to Remember, Change Partners, Pick Yourself Up, Change Partners, Mister Keyboard Man, I've a Shooting Box in Scotland, In the Cool Cool Cool of the Evening, Bon Vivant, Sing, Dance in the Old Fashioned Way, I Love tyo Dance, A Couple of Songa nd Dance Men, That's Entertainment, Top Billing.

And one Crosby LP: Here Lies Love - Living Era AJA 4053

This one I have seen around in Melbourne. It features a selection of tracks recorded between 1931 and 34: The Very Thought of You, Love Thy Neighbour, June in January, You've Got Me Crying Again, May I, With Every Breath I Take, Temptation, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, Sweet and Lovel, Love in Bloom, You're Getting to be a Habit With Me, I Love You Truly, Someday Sweetheart, You're Beautiful Tonight My Dear, Love Is Just Around the Corner, Just A Wearying For you, It Must Be True, Here Lies Love.

Nothing much there that hasn't been re-issued before although there may be some different takes from those commonly available. I didn't bother picking up the disc.

BING CROSBY'S GAME - "CALL ME LUCKY"

Just before we departed for the USA, a large parcel arrived from Mark Scrimger. The contents turned out to be this collectors' item, released by Parker Brothers back in 1954 - no doubt to capitalize on the popularity of Bing's recently released autobiography of the same name!

The game consists of the large box which you see reproduced on the left, a game board which you see reproduced on the right (plus some of the rules), and a set of game tokens.

Unfortunately, the game itself is nothing to write home about - in fact it is dreary in the extreme - a very good example of a company exploiting a current event without really caring much about what it is - just seeing it as an excuse to make money!

Nonetheless, the game is a unique collector's item and we are delighted that Mark thought to send it to us.

RULES FOR PLAYING

Bing Crosby's Own Game "Call Me Lucky"

COPYRIGHT 1934 BY

Parker Brothers Inc.

For Two, Three or Four Players

CALL ME LUCKY is an unusual game for 2, 3 or 4 p
Unlike most games no dice or spinners are required
sists of a convenient folding game-board and fou
small colored cards printed with numbers from on
including a LUCKY SEVEN CARD. All of these ca
a point scoring value.

Object:

The object of the game is to capture cards, each of whic
number. WHEN THE GAME ENDS the numbers on
cards are ADDED TOGETHER and the player with the hi
the game.

First Few Plays:

The first few plays are made by covering numbers
cards of the same numbers. This gets the game started. If a
turns up on the first player's first turn, he cannot play it and shuffles
back into his Draw Pile. He then draws again.

After each player has one or two cards face up on the board, thought
should be given to "capturing" opponents' cards.

Capturing:

The player making a capture must have a card on the board adjacent to the card to be captured before he can actually make the capture.

In making captures with cards already on the board (See Diagrams C and D) only the card or cards which are adjacent to the card to be captured can be used.

In capturing with the card taken from the draw pile (See diagram E) there must already be a card on the board adjacent to the card to the captured. This adjacent card may be numbered in any way as it is not used in the capture.

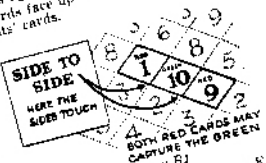


Diagram B1

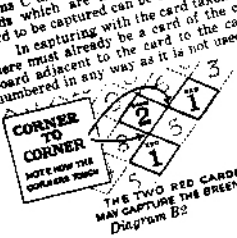


Diagram B2

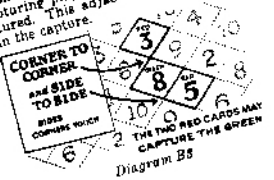


Diagram B3

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NEW MEMBERS

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In the past 12 months, we were happy to welcome the following members to the ranks of the Victorian Bing Crosby Society.

ARTHUR O'CONNOR 42 Sunset Bvd, Jacana Vic 3047
JOSEPH KANE 2/16 Wondalga Ave, North Dandenong, Vic 3175
JIM & LOIS WALLMAN 67a Tivoli Rd, South Yarra, Vic 3141
WERONIKA RUDNICKI 193 Lower Heidelberg Road, Inanhoes East, Vic 3079
BEN RADLEY 8 Crestway, Lilydale, Vic 3140. (Ben is our youngest-ever member, weighing in at just 8 years of age on joining in January!)
PHILIP PATERSON Paterson's Pharmacy, Cnr West St & Trafalgar Ave, Umina 2257
RON DANIELS 1 Oxford Ave, Victor Harbour, S.A. 5211
WES RUSSELL 4 Paula Cresc, East Doncaster, Vic 3109
DON HAZLETT 256 Elgar Rd, Box Hill South, Vic 3128
MARLIN DORNBUSH 817 Schuman Lane, Petaluma, Cal. 94952 USA
JOHN DEANY 34 Lomond Ave, Kilsyth, Vic 3137
DAVID MURRAY, 21 Windsor Rd, Wamberal, NSW 2260
JOHN & JOY PILGRIM 7 Samantha Close, Wheelers Hill, Vic 3150
BETH MUIR 12 Moffat St, St Albans, Vic 3021
ERIC GRIFFITHS 31 Badgers Way, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS& 1TP, England
KEN MERRY 28 The Avenue, Bessacarr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, England
LES GAYLOR 114 Medina Ave, Newport, Isle of Wight, England
LIONEL FAIRPOINT 86 Ellesmere Ave, Mill Hill, London, England
JACQUI COLLIER 19 Langibanool Ave, North Geelong 3215
MR & MRS MACLAINE 323 Glenfern Rd, Upwey 3158
JOHN EDWARDS 8 Wiggins St, Botany, NSW 2019
DONALD MALCOLM BENTLEY, 23 Orloff St, Keysborough, Vic 3173
LES & LILI TAYLOR 25 Windsor Ave, Bentleigh, Vic 3204
TREVOR HUGH WAGSTAFF 49 Dawes Ave, Hornchurch, Essex, England
PAUL MORRISON Kirby Villa, Dean Crescent, Rowlands Gill, Tyne & Wear, England
FRANK WARDLEY 24 Fidge Crt, Jacana, Vic 3047
GAVIN O'CONNOR 7a Olive St, Reservoir, Vic 3073
JEANNE & ERNEST SUTKOWSKI 20 Baldwin Rd, Saddle River, New Jersey, USA
ALFIE & MAREE WOOD 9 Orr St, Heidelberg Heights, Vic 3081
DEREK PARKES 66 Firs Rd, Firsdown, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 1SW, England
EDWARD BERRYMAN 105 Richmond Rd, Tottenham, London, England
and MICHAEL CRAMPTON and MALCOLM MACFARLANE whose addresses I cannot lay my hands on at this particular point in time! Sorry, Michael and Malcolm, but at least you received a mention. Somewhere along the way in the last year, I misplaced the membership forms of Members numbers: 530, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544 and 545. If you happen to hold one of those numbers, I would appreciate your dropping me a line at PO Box 422, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 and informing me of your identity!

###############

Bing Crosby special

Community radio station, 2MCE-FM, will present a special on Bing Crosby tonight (Thursday), to commemorate the tenth anniversity of Crosby's death.

Crosby's career — in music, radio, television, and film — spanned 50 years.

His first major hit, "I Surrender Dear" was recorded in 1931 and later than year he began a coast to coast radio broadcast on the CBS network. For 20 years he was a top radio star in the USA.

His first appearance in a feature film took place in 1930, with Paul Whiteman and his orchestra in "The King of Jazz".

Paramount Studios recognised a star in the making and in 1932 signed a contract with Bing to make five movies over a period of three years, for a fee of $300,000.

Teaming up with Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour for the first of the "road" movies, "Road to Singapore", added another dimension to his movie career in 1940. And in 1944 playing the role of Father O'Malley in "Going My Way", Crosby won an Academy Award for best actor.

Two years earlier he had recorded what is undoubtedly his best-known song, "White Christmas". Bing claimed tht neither he nor the song's composer, Irving Berlin, had dreamed that the tune would be so successful when it was included in the film score.

THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY - TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of Receipts and Payments - Year ended 30th September, 1987

BALANCE 30.9.87			1170.47
RECEIPTS			
Fees		1825.61	
Video, cassettes, casette library		265.00	
Sale of records		803.27	
Raffle & film night receipts		1853.85	
Miscellaneous			
Magazines	25.00		
Bank Interest	35.31		
		60.31	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			4808.04
			5978.51
PAYMENTS			
Books, cassettes, records		740.71	
Raffles expenses		36.20	
Printing, Postage of Newsletter		2889.53	
Video and Film Hire		273.00	
Miscellaneous			
Refreshments	141.05		
Theatre Hire	1044.00		
Bank charges	9.36		
Sundry	47.85		
		1242.26	
TOTAL PAYMENTS			5181.70
BALANCE 30.9.87			796.81

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT	
Balance 30.9.86	1170.47 Credit
Receipts	4808.04
	5978.51
Payments	5181.70
Balance 30.9.87	796.81 Credit
Balance as per Bank Statement No 35	1400.41 Credit
Less unprocessed cheque No 232981	603.60
Balance as per Cash Book	796.81 Credit

Keith Dorman - Treasurer

DICK TODD: KING OF THE JUKEBOX

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JUST RELEASED - A NEW BOOK ON DICK TODD
****

Well-known Canadian author and broadcaster, Sheldon O'Connell has just released a new book on the life of Dick Todd. We're happy to devote space to Sheldon's book, not only because many of our members have an interest in Todd and his work, but also because Sheldon is a valued member of the Victorian Bing Crosby Society. (You may recall one of Sheldon's earlier works - "Bing - A Voice For All Seasons" which was issued a few years ago.)

Sheldon has done his homework well. The book bulges with anecdotes from people who knew and worked with Dick Todd including his sister Lilian and his son Richard.

Over the 27 chapters, we trace Todd's life from his earliest days through to the early 1970's when he was last seen alive. Unfortunately, Sheldon was not able to acertain whether Todd is still alive at this time, but it would seem unlikely.

"Dick Todd - King of the Jukebox" is crammed with information that will interest both the casual fan and the serious collector, including transcriptions of radio broadcasts from the 1930's and 1940's.

Of particular interest is a comprehensive discography which lists all of Dick's recordings from 1937 to 1969. That's right! Dick Todd was still making records as late as 1969!

There are photographs of Todd and his family and friends and even some stills from a rare 'soundie' from the early 1940's.

"Dick Todd - King of the Jukebox" is published by OLB Jazz Books and Records, Box 2663, Providence RI 02907 (Ph: (401) 941-6840 but copies may be ordered direct from Sheldon O'Conell. The cost is a very modest US$7.95, plus $1 postage in the USA (probably more from other countries, especially if you want air mail, so write first enclosing an IRC).

Write to: Sheldon O'Connell
1959 Marine Drive
Apt 2465
North Vancouver
B.C.
CANADA V7P 3G1

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JSP RECORDS
****

BING IN THE 30's — FATS WALLER — MILLS BROTHERS

AND SHORTLY - A NEW BING SERIES

If you are having difficulty in obtaining these recrds at the right price or are looking for other UK releases, contact:

DEREK PARKES 66 FIRS ROAD FIRSDOWN
SALISBURY, WILTS SP5 1SW ENGLAND

Derek can also supply CD's at a discount. Watch for a "Crosby Collectors' Profile on Derek Parkes in our next issue! It is very interesting reading.

BITS 'N' PIECES

* The tenth anniversary of Bing's passing was largely ignored by the media here. Sure there were a couple of Crosby movies on TV, one of which was "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court", but not much else. I didn't catch the nostalgia shows over the weekend, but I would presume that Bill Bennett, Neville Wragg et al, would have had something on Bing. On the 14th, ABC FM did play a number of Crosby tracks on their 'Kaleidoscope' programme between 5 and 7 pm, but that seems to have been it for Melbourne. If any reader can prove me wrong, I would be delighted to hear about it.

* Sad to note the passing of well-known USA Crosby admirer, Marston Tolton. Marston and his wife Helen go way way back in their love of Crosby to the late 1920's when Bing was still with the Whiteman orchestra! Our condolences go to Helen who, although not a member of this society, is someone of whom we have been aware for many years.

* Ian Burnham reports that there is a new Kate Smith re-issue around town on the Axis label. Although Ian hasn't seen the record yet, he reports hearing that the LP contains three tracks never on 33 before.

* John Joyce of the UK has very kindly donated another tape to the John Joyce Collection in the club library, bringing to a total the tapes that he has provided, to 13. Ask for JJ13 therefore, when ordering.

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THINGS FOR SALE
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LP'S AT A DISCOUNT

Members of the VBCS can obtain discounts on records (Crosby and otherside) at the Bentleigh Sewing and Record Centre (ABC Records), 348 Centre Road, Bentleigh (Ph 557 1050). Ken Henderson (the owner and a member of this club) has the best nostalgia section in Melbourne. Hundreds and hundreds of records covering pops, jazz, etc.

COLOUR PHOTO'S OF BING

Frank Murphy operates the Bing Crosby Colour Photo Club in the UK and issues many colour photos of Bing every year for sale to members are very reasonable prices, as well as a 40 page + magazine which alco includes a coule of colour shots. For the latest annual rates, write to Frank: 32 Ferndale Ave, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 7NE, England. Please enclose an IRC, available from any post office.

BING ON CASSETTE

Arnold Baker, 48 Groomsport Rd, Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland BT20 5LR, has over 100 different Crosby cassettes for sale, covering just about every subject you can imagine. Drop Arnold a line now with an IRC.

BING DISCOGRAPHY

If you have even a small collection of Bing Records, you must have a copy of "Bing - Just For the Record". It lists every Crosby record from 1926 - 1977 in order. For details, write to John Joyce (Bookbinders), Saltmeadows Road, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE28 AH3, England. John also has a few copies of the wonderful Bing films book "THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD" by Fred Reynolds which lists every detail of everyone of Bing's movies fromm go to whoa. And IRC will bring further details.

FM Radio by General Electric — you hear the tunes in all their natural colors and beauty.

Conventional Radio lacks color and richness. Something is missing.

BING CROSBY appearing in ***HERE COME THE WAVES***, a Paramount Picture. Star of Kraft Music Hall, every Thursday over NBC.

Only FM radio captures the natural color of Bing's "Silent Night"

This Christmas, imagine hearing in your own living room, Bing Crosby's "Silent Night", so vibrantly alive, so thrillingly colorful, that you are tempted to applaud before you realize that he is not actually singing there before you!

It's only on FM radio that such a startling illusion is possible. And on the new General Electric FM radio you will also hear a thousand musical tones conventional radio loses . . . the fragile lacework of *overtones* that alone give to every voice and to every instrument their particular charm. All against a background of velvety silence . . . virtually free from static or station interference.

This is FM "Natural Color" radio by General Electric . . . the radio you'll want to own.

Conventional radio is able to re-create less than half of the tonal range you should hear. Delicate overtones are lost. But the new General Electric FM (Frequency Modulation) radio captures their glorious beauty . . . keeping all the delight music was meant to give.

General Electric built the first FM sets for the public. It owns and operates its own FM broadcast station. It is the only manufacturer to build FM complete . . . from station equipment to the radio set for your home. This unmatched experience in Frequency Modulation is your assurance that the coming General Electric FM will embody all that's best in radio.

FREE: *A fascinating booklet,* "YOUR COMING RADIO." *28 pages profusely illustrated in full color. Previews the revolutionary, new General Electric Radio and Television sets. For your free copy mail a postcard request to Electronics Department, General Electric, Schenectady, New York.*

Every General Electric radio is an electronic instrument. The heart of every General Electric radio-phonograph, portable radio, or table model is the electronic tube. This tube is similar to electronic tubes used in G-E television equipment, and in amazing G-E electronic apparatus that speeds war output in thousands of industrial plants.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

170-648

FM RADIO

A PRODUCT OF G-E ELECTRONIC RESEARCH

Tune in General Electric's "The World Today" News, every weekday 6:45 p. m. E. W. T. on CBS and the G-E "All-Girl Orchestra," Sunday, 10 p. m. E. W. T. on NBC

COLLECTORS' CORNER

Four reasonably obscure album covers lead off our Collectors' Corner for this issue.

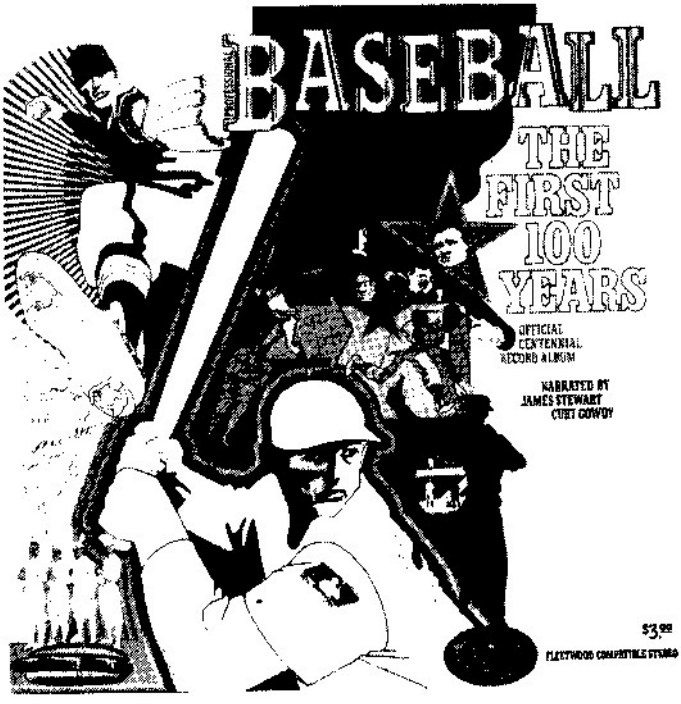
At top left is what was almost Bing's last record!

It features two tracks recorded by Bing late in 1973, just before he entered hospital to have a growth removed from one lung (at one stage it was thought that the growth might be cancerous)

Both tracks were recorded as a favour to a friend who was trying to raise money for the restoration of Old St Mary's Church in San Francisco.

The record is a limited issue and was sold only from Old St Marys.

The words "San Francisco Experience" haven't reproduced on our second album but the Lp was produced as a souvenir of the so-named sight and sound event on Pier 39 at Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco. I guess that the Crosby family no longer has an interest in the venture as we saw no mention of Bing when we visited the show recently.



BASEBALL -
The First 100 Years is great entertainment IF you like baseball. The LP is narrated by James Stewart and consists of old broadcasts, interviews, etc.
Bing is featured briefly, from memory, in an interview. I say 'from memory' as this is not one of the LP's in my collection that receives an awful lot of play! (No offense intended to our members who do know about baseball - especially our American contingent)

Still, the disc is a bona fide Crosby Collectors Item!

I know very little about the second LP also - The Salvation Army Shower of Stars. Issued back in 1966 to raise funds for this very worthwhile organization, the LP features Bing as 'host commentator'. Once again, not a record I play all that much, but one that is worth having for the Crosby content.
If anyone would care the provide more information about this disc, I would be happy to print the details in the magazine.

TRADING POST

Jack Higginson, 10 Holly Ave, Hollywell, Qld, Australia 4216

is willing to pay $35 each for the following "Bing's Hollywood" LP's in excellent condition. Jack quotes the Festival issue numbers but I presume that he would be interested in labels from any country. Write first and check, though:

FL 30913, 30914, 30845, 30846, 30968, 30843, 30844, 30841, 30916, 30947.

Frank Walsh, Fishing Haven, River Road, Palmers' Island, NSW 2460, Australia

is very anxious to obtain video cassettes of "Road to Zanzibar", "Robin and the 7 Hoods", "Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court", "Here Is My Heart", "Anything Goes (1936)", "Top Of the Morning" and "Pennies From Heaven".

Can anyone help?

Gwen Harvey, 33 Canterbury Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 6QP, England

also wants some videos. The elusive "Top Of The Morning", "Here Is My Heart", "Duffy's Tavern", "Out of this World" and the Bing "This is Your Life".

Ken Merry, 28 The Avenue, Bessacarr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4 5JX, England

has 18 60 minute audio cassettes available and welcome's enquiries. Overseas readers should send an IRC for details.

(We can't list the contents of all of Ken's tapes here, but briefly:)

5 Alan Dell tributes to Bing - 1977, 79, 82, 84 and 85. (One per tape)

3 Alan Dell "Crosby Corner' tapes - until May 85, until Oct 85 and until early 86.

Hubert Gregg's "I Call it Style" - Bing and Bob (23/4/85)

Bob Hope's "Star Choice" - 25/9/82

Moonstruck Bing - commercial and radio songs with 'moon' in the title

Bing Names Some Girls - songs with girls' names in the titles

Bing and Judy/Bing and Mary

Bing/Rosie with Buddy Cole - from radio

A Collection of Crosbys - Bing with various family members

Bingand Rosie - an Unusual Collection

Comparisons - songs recorded more than once by Bing

Bing's Last Broadcast - recorded 3 days before his passing

Allan G Morton, 2 Georgina Ave, Elanora Heights, NSW 2101, Australia

has the following for sale: 18 7" reel tapes containing the contents of 38 Crosbyana LP's. Recorded on professional quality backcoated poly tape (new) at 7½ips 2 track (also playable 4 track). Each tape contains a list of contents. The LP's: Going Hollywood 1 - 16, Music Hall Highlights (3 lps), Philco Radio Time, Bing & Buddy - Cole that is, Bing Buddy and Rose - Clooney that is, Strike Up the Band - vols 1 & 2, Just a little lovin' - vols 1 & 2, Shhhh! Bing (3 lps), Movie featurettes 1931, Prelude to Hollywood, Empty Saddles, Bless 'em all, Good and Rare (5 lps) TOTAL PRICE $243. 27 hours of music for less than the cost of the tape!

Best offers on: Day Dreaming (Coral CPS 113 UK), New Tricks (Festival Aust 1608), I Love You Truly (Coral CPS 79 UK), Shhh Bing Vols 3 & 4 (Crosbyana), Twilight On the Trail (Popular E 275 Aust), Going Hollywood (Ist vol - Crosbyana Aust), Bing and the Andrews Sisters Vols 1,2 & 3. (Coral UK) CLOSING DATE FEB 29, 1988)

LETTER BOX

From David Murray, Wamberal, NSW

Sydney and Melbourne 'jazz classicists' have been really stirred up by the Chronological Crosby Vols 1 - 7 and want to get to the basis of Bing's overwhelming contributions to popular music. Questions Phil Paterson and myself have been asked include "Was Buddy Cole black or white?", "When did Buddy Cole first work with Bing?", "What were the working relationships between Bing, Armstrong and Ellington?" (Some of the answers have taken us quite a substantial time to uncover!

From Huge McTeigue, Northbridge, NSW

Recently, with most of the other members of the Crosby Association, I attended the home of John Edwards in Sydney, for a Crosby night. John and his wife Lana (as in Turner) gave us a warm, wonderful welcome. We listened to some Bing and Jolson tracks and viewed :Sing you Sinners". It was wonderful to see the combination of Bing, Fred McMurray and Donald O'Connor on the screen. I think that the whole cast blended well together. Hoagy Carmichael's "Small Fry" came alive again in that nostalgic presentation.

Supper lasted from 8 til midnight or later - wonderful food and the type of hospitality I received while Iwas on course with the RAAF in Melbourne during the war, around 1942 from memory.

One of the film presentations you showed recently brought back memories. "Hallelujah I'm a Bum" I screened as a theatre projectionist with the then title "Hallelujah I'm a TRAMP". How times have changed, but to my mind, one of the songs that comes to memory was "You Are Too Beautiful".

From Ken Twiss, BCHS, Tacoma

John Marshall was in Miami, Florida on a recent holiday. He also made connections. I appreciate both your efforts. Things are going great for BCHS right now. I attribute this success to insight and positive thinking that I learned during my recent luck. I can't call it 'bad' luck because so much good has happened since my broken hip to make me believe in miracles! I think that this will be a good year for Bingophiles.

From Frans van der Kolff, Amsterdam

The enclosed cassette supplement in the last issue was very interesting. I will contact Colin Pugh about a few ommissions. It seems that Bing will be well remembered on the tenth anniversary of his passing. I understand that there will be three videos out by CIC and there is the Robert Palmer LP, the next two Chronological Crosby LP's, Ken Barnes' set, and of course, the two CD reissues of Bing's 70's UK LP's. I've also just received Crosbyana Volume 6 and that new Japanese CD. Who knows what Japanese MCA will come up with in October!

From Ken Hopkins, Glen Waverley, Vic

I understand that British video cassettes are compatible with the Australian system, and, if this is so, is it possible to obtain them from somewhere in the UK? There are, of course, a number of Crosby issues available there.
(Yes Ken, that's very true. Can any UK member advise a reliable dealer to whom Ken might write? Ken's address is 28 Plymouth St, Glen Waverley, Victoria Australia 3150. You might drop me a line as well and I'll put the information in the magazine. BM)

From Joaõ Daudt D'Oliveira Neto, Rio de Janeiro

I hope that you are as happy as I am over the new Ken Barnes project. It will certainly be one of the gem's of Bing's entire recording career.

Did you know that Bing visited Buenos Aires three times? In 1949, 1970 and 1974, Back in 1970, he was invited to appear on TV and was interviewed and sang a few songs. I corresponded with the newsman who covered his stay in Buenos Aires and he checked the files and found that Bing sang at least 5 songs. He doesn't have all the title yet but two of them were STARDUST and WHITE CHRISTMAS.

From Graham Pascoe, Bathurst, NSW

Congratulations on the new form for the "Crosby Voice". It will enable you to reproduce material in a more legible size - something not always possible before. Sometimes I had to use a magnifying glass to read the very small print! (Sorry Graham if you had problems, then it's fair to assume that other members did too. I wish that people had told me sooner. Anyway, this problem has now, I hope, been eliminated. BM)

You may be interested to learn that David Duncan and I produced a one-hour program as a tribute to Bing, commemorating the tenth anniversary of his death. We used material from David's collection, tracing Bing's career from I'VE GOT THE GIRL to his 1976 Palladium concert. David broadcast the show on Sydney's 2NSB, at which he has been a regular broadcaster for some years. Our public radio station for the Bathurst-Orange area, 2MCE-FM, played it on Monday 12th October and repeated in on Thursday 15th. (Elsewhere in the magazine you can see a clipping about the show. BM)

From Les O'Donnell, Bulimba, Qld

We approached the local TV and radio stations regarding some sort of tribute to Bing on October 14th but received only lukewarm response. The only bright spot was radio 3BH - only a small station in Brisbane, but one with a big heart. One of its announcers, Jamie Kelly, is also a member of the QBCS which obviously helped. Every second month before our meetings here, Peter Trainer goes on Jamie's programme for a quarter-hour segment featuring Bing's recordings. As well as our usual segment on October 13th, the station is going to give us a half-hour the Friday before.

From Les Gaylor (via Keith Parkinson), Isle of Wight

Ken Barnes has engaged a sales promotion man who is talking with three companies in the USA in regards to issuing the Buddy Cole material there. One of these is CBS Records. If a deal is struck, the tracks will be issued on a six-LP set in that country as only about 6 tracks or thereabouts are allowed on boxed sets for each LP side. The three USA companies only want to talk digital masters or compact discs so as to get the best USA radio station plays.

The only sad news is, that owing to the production processes of LP's, cassettes and compact discs, Ken says that the Warwick people don't want to be concerned with the promised EP of poems in this initial release. The EP may be issued later, says Ken.

(In a later letter, Les writes:) Ken's agent some back from the USA with a contract to release the albums on the Silver Eagle label. They will issue the tracks in a 3 LP album set as in Britain to keep the price attractive.

Ken was called in by EMI and has compiled two United Artists albums. These are 16 track compilations in digital stereo and on compact discs. One will be released in October as a 10th anniversary release. The other album is a Bing/Astaire one, but not 'A Couple of Song and Dance Men'.

DOUG HAGUE

DER BINGLE

The current trend of Rock 'n Roll along with the "pop" gimmick singers has brought about a lowering of the standards of vocalizing. Even today in jazz with so many new singers on the scene, there has been an emphasis on note bending, sighing tone, and all-around monotony which would place many vocalists high on the Morpheus poll. The disregard for the meaning of the lyrics, and lack of feeling for music or rhythm leaves much to be desired in today's singers. Through it all, some old "pros" like Satchmo, Turner, Galloway, and Rushing still remain on top, while men like Sinatra and Cole add to vocal interpretation. Still through all the years, the name of Crosby remains a byword.

Bing Crosby is probably the man most responsible for what we accept as "pop" singers or crooners. The high standard of Crosby is, however, no match for most of today's so-called singers.

Bing was brought up in the era of early jazz, and was associated with musicians of the calibre of Bix, Lang, Joe Sullivan, Condon, Nichols, etc. This was to make a lasting impression on him and has shown through the years that the influence of these men was imprinted on Crosby's outlook on music. An easy going stylist with a great improvisational flair, Bing has more than just an inkling of jazz feeling.

ST LOUIS BLUES

His rapid rise to fame was, of course, not as a jazz singer; he was a romantic singer and had a pretty resounding effect on his audience, especially the women. His recordings of "Brother Can You Spare A Dime", on Brunswick (very dramatic); "Beautiful Girl" on Perfect 13039 (very romantic); and "Blue Prelude" on Melotone 13128 (good jazz feeling) are fine examples of the variety of his style. Most interesting of his early discs were "St Louis Blues" with Duke Ellington (Columbia 55003), in which he sings the intro, and then after an excellent solo by Johnny Hodges, does some scat singing. "Some of These Days" (Banner 31163); "My Honey's Lovin' Arms" (Columbia 4304); and the fine rendition of "Somebody Stole Gabriel's Horn" (Vocalion 4522). One of Bing's best discs with Paul Whiteman was on a composition of his own, "From Monday On", which has some nice work by Bix.

In later years since he became a popular motion picture star, his films often included such jazz personalities as Jack Teagarden, Wingy Mannone, Joe Venuti, and of course Satchmo. During his radio career on the Kraft Music Hall, Bing again employed many jazz personalities. One of the finest shows that Bing did was with Satchmo, Teagarden, and Venuti, with Buddy Cole on piano, and Nick Fatool on drums. The vocals between Bing and Louis are as fabulous as the music. The point I wish to make is that while Crosby is the greatest pop singer of all time, he always *moves* when he is with a jazz group, and shows great ability as a jazz singer.

The recent revival of Crosby started with the film "High Society" in which he is combined with the talents of Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong. This is probably the greatest vocal combination ever gathered in a motion picture. The hilarious repartee by Bing and Sinatra on "Did You Ever", is highly entertaining but it is the swinging "Then You Has Jazz" which again shows how "Der Bingle" can wail when backed by a jazz combo.

BING SINGS

The new Verve LP entitled "Bing Sings Whilst Bregman Swings" is also a strong indication that Crosby still has it, and that he will probably keep on singing just as long as his two legs can carry him to a mike. Bing recently stated to the press that he hasn't got it. Maybe Bing was in a blue mood at the time, for this new album is a "gas". The band assembled by Buddy Bregman is a big powerhouse outfit of Hollywood musicians. They give Bing that extra drive, as do the occasional solos by Harry "Sweets" Edison. There are other soloists but none is identified. It is also a pleasure to hear the intros to the songs sung, something that even Sinatra doesn't do. It is interesting to compare Sinatra's version of "Jeepers Creepers" with Crosby's — you may prefer one to the other but it becomes apparent that here are two men who "feel" a tune, understand its lyrics, and have 'jazz' phrasing. Based on the success of this LP, Verve would do good service to both us and Bing by giving him a small jazz group to work with. How about it, Mr. Granz? But please, no Oscar Peterson!

JAZZ ON T.V.

Jazz is becoming more and more popular on T.V. here. Recently the veteran jazz violinist Joe Venuti made two guest appearances, one on the Frankie Laine show, and one on the Dorsey Brothers program. The Steve Allen show continues to be one of the biggest promoters of jazz with the presentation of the Maynard Ferguson orchestra and Henry "Red" Allen's Natural Giants, with Buster Bailey, on clarinet, Herb Fleming on trombone, Claude Hopkins, piano; Eddie "Mole" Bourne on drums, and an unknown bass. 'Red' was in rare form on "St. James Infirmery" whilst the band's rendition of "High Society", with solo by Bailey, made a terrific hit with the studio audience. Buster's hair is now quite white but he still retains that well known bovish face.

On another show Steve Allen featured the Boyd Raeburn Band, and he has also featured Don Elliott on vibes giving his impressions of Red Norvo, Milt Jackson, Lionel Hampton, and Terry Gibbs.

Jack Crystal of Commodore Records, who promotes the Jazz Concerts at Central Plaza, recently presented a special Sunday night Jazz Party and Concert in honor the 40th Anniversary in the jazz world of the great Willie "The Lion" Smith. A capacity crowd paid honor to "The Lion", many top musicians also being present. It was a great show of appreciation for a truly fine musician.

NOW YOU HAS JAZZ

BING and LOUIS ARMSTRONG in the film HIGH SOCIETY

SOME RARE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM TRACEY LEE

Just before we departed for the USA, ex-member Tracey Lee sent us these photographs for inclusion in The Crosby Voice. The one above was taken just recently with Dorothy Lamour, whom Tracey met on a visit to the States a few weeks earlier. Tracey also included a couple of rare stills featuring Bing, which, I think he said, that Dorothy had given him. Unfortunately, in all the rush,I've misplaced Tracey's letter, so I can't give you all the details. But I guess that the photo's speak for themselves. Tracey, if you get to see this, why not drop another line and explain the background to the shots again!

Hope eternal

NEW YORK, Fri. — As he grows older, an unfamiliarly serious Bob Hope says he is thinking more and more about his fervent belief in life after death.

The 84-year-old comedian says he is convinced he'll meet his old friends in an afterlife.

"You have to believe in something, because all this couldn't happen without some great force propelling it," Hope said.

"I'm very religious, but I don't believe personally that you have to be in a church to be religious."

Hope recalled the recent deaths of his friends Jackie Gleason and Fred Astaire, and said he was looking forward to seeing them and his old friend Bing Crosby.

Hope said it broke his heart to think of all the people he'd worked with who had died recently.

He said he had never been as sad as he was over the death of Bing.

Hope is looking forward to his next major TV special, marking his 85th birthday.

"We're going to shoot it in my birthplace, Eltham, England," he said.

"You can't imagine how happy I'll be seeing the old town

BACK PAGE SPECIAL

NEW RECORDS, JULY, 1934

BING CROSBY

The BOSWELL SISTERS

The MILLS BROTHERS

and other favourite artists are now on

Columbia